
From: Hershfield, Yael <YHershfield@adl.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 11:09 AM
To: McCormick, Shawn
Subject: FW: PR: ADL Honors Jacksonville, Ocala Law Enforcement For Thwarting Attacks
Attachments: image012_emz

*****EXTERNAL EMAIL SOURCE*****

This email was sent from a non-JSO account. Do not open any links or any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Shawn,
This was sent out yesterday. We will send pictures to the Detectives for their personal use. We did not publicize those.
Hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,
Yael

Yael Hershfield
Deputy Regional Director

621 NW 53rd Street, Ste. 450
Boca Raton, FL 33487
t: 561-988-2916
yhershfield@adl.org
adl.org



From: Wilk, Lonny
Sent: Tuesday, December 11, 2018 10:15 AM
To: Wilk, Lonny <LWilk@adl.org>
Subject: PR: ADL Honors Jacksonville, Ocala Law Enforcement For Thwarting Attacks

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Lonny Wilk
(561) 988-2917 | cell: (954) 235-1489 | lwilk@adl.org
[Click here to view online](#)

ADL Honors Jacksonville, Ocala Law Enforcement For Thwarting Attacks

Boca Raton, Fla...December 11, 2018 - ADL presented the Doris and Murray Felton Excellence in Law Enforcement Awards at its Palm Beach Jurisprudence Awards Dinner on December 4. The recipient of the Investigative Award was the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Intelligence Unit, and the recipient of the Prosecutorial Award was Assistant State Attorney Timothy McCourt, Fifth Judicial Circuit.

The Felton Awards uniquely recognize leadership in law enforcement in the crimes, domestic and international terrorism, civil rights, community public-private partnerships. Members of the Law Enforcement Selection group of leaders from across the state representing local and state law as well as State Attorneys and ADL leaders - assist in securing applications review nominations of those who have gone above and beyond the call of together select the winners of this award.

"ADL's long-standing partnership with law enforcement on local, regional, international levels is unparalleled in any other human or civil rights said Sheri Zvi, ADL Florida Regional Director. "This year's honorees went to protect the communities they serve. It is a privilege to distinguish them and Murray Felton Excellence in Law Enforcement Awards."



areas of hate relations and Committee - a enforcement, for this award, duty, and

national and organization," great lengths to with the Doris

INVESTIGATIVE AWARD - Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Intelligence Unit

In 2017, information was received by Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) that a person was planning to shoot Muslims at a Jacksonville mosque and adjacent school. An initial investigation revealed the threat to be credible. JSO's Intelligence Unit detectives diligently implemented a strategy to gather more information. After determining that the individual possessed firearms and specific plans to engage in a shooting attack at the mosque, and obtaining necessary evidence, he was arrested. The efforts and actions of these detectives prevented what could have become the largest deadly attack on the Muslim community in the history of the United States.

PROSECUTORIAL AWARD - Assistant State Attorney Timothy McCourt, Fifth Judicial Circuit

In 2015, the F.B.I. began a full-scale investigation into the activities of a young man living in Ocala who had converted to Islam and had been radicalized. By 2017, extractions from his computer revealed an individual obsessed with ISIS, a fascination for firearms, and a deep hatred for Jews and the State of Israel. His internet searches for Jewish day schools in Ocala, coupled with photos he took a top of a building next to the Marion County Courthouse, raised concerns that his inability to obtain a passport was motivating him and his girlfriend to opt for a mass shooting in Ocala.

The determined efforts of Assistant State Attorney McCourt saw charges brought against the suspect, his girlfriend, and her father for various crimes. By September of this year, all three pleaded guilty to the and were convicted, with the radicalized man receiving 15 years for acts related to a terror threat.



The Anti-Defamation League, founded in 1913, is the world's leading organization fighting anti-Semitism through programs and services that counteract hatred, prejudice and bigotry.

LONNY WILK

ADL Florida Region

Senior Associate Regional Director

621 NW 53RD Street, Ste. 450

Boca Raton, FL 33487

t: 561-988-2917

lwilk@adl.org

florida.adl.org

